

when the property owners' rights to the property are actually taken by the Federal Government. This is consistent with Congress's intention when the Trails Act amendments were passed in 1983 and will assure compensation to those property owners whose property the Government already acknowledged taking but not require the Government to pay compensation or interest for property never converted to trail use. H.R. 4581 will not undercut the operation of the Trails Act but will actually make it more cost efficient and will fairly treat those property owners whose property is actually taken for a trail.

HONORING THE WORK OF RAY
BECK

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ray Beck, the presiding city manager of Columbia, MO, as he is retiring this January after 45 years of service to the city of Columbia. Ray has held numerous positions during his tenure with the city of Columbia, the most notable of which is his current post of city manager, which he has held since 1985.

The second youngest of six children, Ray Beck was born in St. Elizabeth, MO, on November 9, 1932. After graduating from St. Elizabeth High School, Ray went on to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Ray then dutifully served his country as

an officer in the US. Army. He is also a graduate of the US. Army Field Artillery School as well as the US. Army Command and General Staff College.

Ray always knew that his life would be best spent working as a public servant. As my colleagues here in this Chamber can attest, public service can be an extremely rewarding experience. This calling is the reason why I ran for Congress and am fortunate enough to represent the good people of the Ninth District of Missouri. I am saddened to see Ray leave this position with the city of Columbia, as he has not only been an invaluable resource to the city and myself, he has also become a good friend. His counsel and words of wisdom have certainly aided me as we worked collaboratively for the benefit of Columbia.

Columbia looks a lot different today than in 1960 when Ray first started working for the city. Over this time span, Columbia's population has more than doubled to its current size of roughly 91,000 residents. The cityscape continues to evolve as more and more families and businesses flock to the area. With its strong business climate, close-knit community, excellent public schools and ready access to world-class higher education, Columbia has consistently been ranked as one of the most desirable places to live. Ray can look back with pride at this progress.

Through his official capacities as city manager, Ray has helped Columbia develop into the vibrant city it is today. During his tenure, Columbia established a city-operated waste removal program, expanded the local parks and recreation services, and implemented a municipally operated transit system as well as many other public works projects.

Whether it was working to improve the city's sewer systems, roadways or public utilities, these infrastructure improvements have made Columbia a better place to live and work. Ray accomplished all of this and much more while working with 14 different mayors.

Aside from his official duties, Ray has always been actively involved in the community. Through his involvement with the National Recreation and Parks Association, the University of Missouri-Columbia Dean's Engineering Advisory Council, or the Missouri Highways Engineers Association, Ray was always seeking additional resources or contacts that could assist him in his various endeavors for the city. His drive, however, was not only limited to work related activities. Ray should be commended for his good work and involvement with the MU Alumni Association, the United Way and the U.S. Army Retired Officers' Association, just to name a few.

When Ray retires this January, I suspect he may shed a few tears—some of joy and some of sadness. But when he looks back upon his career, I hope he realizes how much his work has improved the lives of those who make Columbia their home. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

I know his new priorities will no longer focus either on housing or sewer systems, but spending time with his wife, Dee, his 4 children, his 13 grandchildren and his many friends. I only hope that on the day of my retirement I can look back upon a career as accomplished as his.

Ray, I sincerely thank you for your dedication and service to Columbia and the State of Missouri. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.